

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method for setting a parameter for external operating units of a welding apparatus, wherein ~~the a set of~~ welding parameters are selectable and settable using different operating elements and display elements provided on the welding apparatus, the method comprising the following steps:

invoking a control program in said welding apparatus; selectively allocating a selected welding parameter for setting or adjustment to an external operating unit provided on an external component, wherein allocating the selected welding parameter includes storing the welding parameter by using a control or evaluation device;

setting or changing said selected welding parameter, based upon activation or adjustment of the external operating unit provided on the external component;

evaluating any signals received from the external operating units of the external components, by using said control or evaluation device of the welding apparatus;

allocating said signals to at least one respective one of said set of welding parameters.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of invoking the control program occurs by a renewed activation of an operating element provided on the welding apparatus.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 7, wherein said step of selectively allocating said selected welding parameter includes selectively allocating a plurality of welding parameters to several external operating units provided on at least one external component.

Claim 10-11 (Canceled) .

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 7, further comprising the step of transmitting any changes of the external operating units to the welding apparatus.

Claim 13 (New). The method as in claim 9, wherein said step of allocating a plurality of welding parameters includes invoking said control program a plurality of times in a row to allocate a plurality of welding parameters to a plurality of external operating units.

Claim 14 (New). The process as in claim 7, further comprising the step of displaying at least one welding parameter on at least one of said operating units.